

# Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd. Salisbury, NC 28147

(704) 857-8641

[www.grace-salisbury.com](http://www.grace-salisbury.com)



## **1st Sunday in Lent**

February 18, 2024

+ Ministers: The People of Grace +

+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +  
[gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com](mailto:gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com)

+ Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +  
[graceyouth.salisbury@gmail.com](mailto:graceyouth.salisbury@gmail.com)

+ Bookkeeper Dolly Moose +  
[gracebookkeeper.salisbury@gmail.com](mailto:gracebookkeeper.salisbury@gmail.com)

+ Secretary Terri Brown  
[gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com](mailto:gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com)

+ Director of Music Lynn Lippard +

+ Director of Children & Youth Choirs Patsy Parnell +

+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +

+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +

+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ *Those who are able please stand.*

*(Congregation responses are printed in bold type)*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### + CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God,

we gather for worship to practice joy: not because our lives are perfect, but because joy is resilient, God's gift for every season and the wellspring at the heart of our faith.

When our sins feel heavy, **we practice joy.**

When floods rise and fall, **we practice joy.**

When hope surprises us, **we practice joy.**

When God sets people free, **we practice joy.**

When Jesus heals us, **we practice joy.**

When we are called, **we practice joy.**

When we endure, **we practice joy.**

We practice joy together, **and God is with us.**

#### + CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

People of God, the Merciful One already knows everything we confess. By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness, we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another. Let's bring before God what we have done wrong and what we've failed to do, trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven.

*Brief silence for reflection.*

God of abundant goodness,

**we have hurt those we love, those far from us, ourselves, and your creation by what we do and by what we neglect. We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures and refuse to enjoy what you give. We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship plague our neighbors. We ignore the gift of your presence in times both tragic and triumphant. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. Pour out on us the joy of your presence and heal what we have harmed.**

Friends, receive these joyful words:

You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins. You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child. You are released to live out God's love in a world that needs such joy.

**Amen.**

# +GATHERING HYMN

## "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg-ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king-dom's ours for - ev - er!

# + GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## + KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## + CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther. Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

#### + SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

#### + PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

**Mighty One, your love for all creation endures every flood. Accompany us with vivid, persistent hope.**

**Refract your love into a thousand wavelengths, bright and varied, more tenacious than the storm. Amen.**

#### FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

<sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up-right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

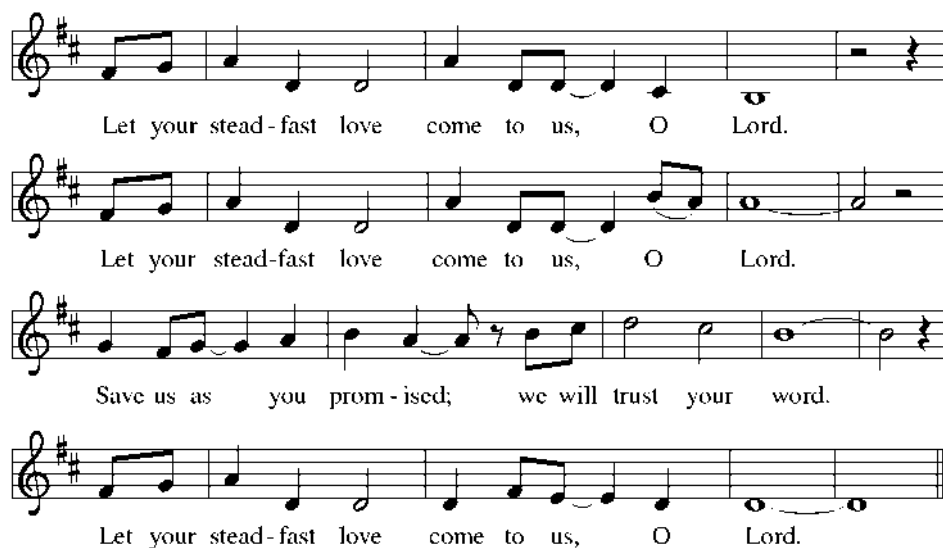
## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## + GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## + GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

<sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

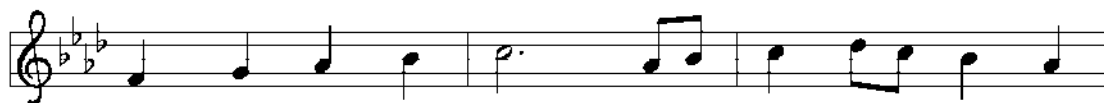
## SERMON

### + HYMN OF THE DAY

### "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

### + APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in hope and trust, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## + PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of mercy and grace, you are present. You are within each person here and you are among us as your gathered people.

God of unending joy,  
**answer us.**

God of abundant life, you bring a quiet, constant joy to our most trying times. Remind us of your goodness in grief and your presence in pain. **Amen.**

## + SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### + OFFERTORY SONG “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to  
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They  
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we

place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship  
grew in your good plea-sure. What once was com - mon,  
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now

as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

### + OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

**God of mercy and grace, you give us so much: our days, our loved ones, our passions and talents, the food we eat, the homes we know, a place to worship. God, you pour out an abundance of goodness. Receive the gifts we offer back to you today. Bless them and bless us, that we will give generously, love boldly, and share widely, our offering reflecting your joyful gift. Amen.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

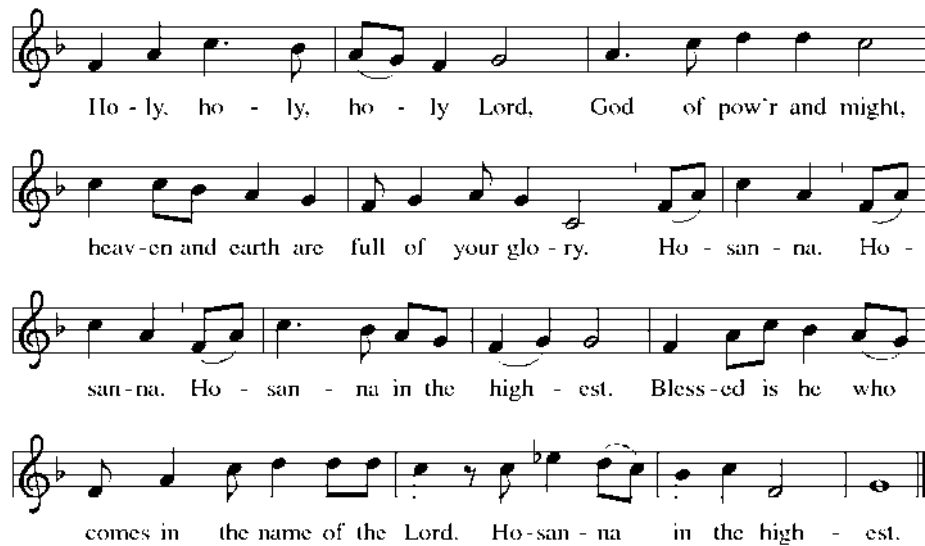
Rejoice with full hearts.

**We offer them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God, there is no time and no place where you are not present, and there is no time and no place where we should not practice the joy of praising you: even here, even now, in our ordinary lives. And so, with the choirs of all the Saints and all God's angels, we join in singing the joyful praises of your name and sing in their unending hymn:



God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy. Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood. Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future in a covenant promise. Moses cradled your law in his arms and the Israelites found wilderness life where they should have died. The prophets read that your faithfulness is traced on their hearts. Your love sent us Jesus and his persistent, irrational joy: dripping with the Jordan's baptismal waters, teaching in the crowd's beating heart, tossing the tables of empire and profit, falling like a seed into warm dark soil as he offered his life for us all.

### *Words of Institution*

In the heart of fear and pain, God plants the seed of our joy:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup, Christ's body and blood, the food that gives us the strength to persist until joy appears. Send your Spirit upon us and fortify us to be your body and a wellspring of hope for a world in need. All glory, power, and honor are yours, God of brilliant resurrection and quiet joy, today and every day.  
**Amen.**

### **+ LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD



**DISTRIBUTION** – All baptized children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

### BLESSING

Go with blessing. The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos weaves joy within your own heart. The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows travels right beside you. The One who whispers joy to our hearts is present within you.

You are blessed in the name of God, Holy Three in One.

**Amen.**

### +SENDING HYMN “Jesus, Still Lead On”



## DISMISSAL

Practice joy. As you leave this place, go with the joy that persists in every storm.

Go in peace. Spread God's joy.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

# Useful Information

<u>Serving 2/18/2024</u>		<u>Serving 2/25/2024</u>	
<b>Organist</b>	Teresa Yost	<b>Organist</b>	Becky Lippard
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Sarah Stirewalt	<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Kristi Miller
<b>Lector</b>	Emily Copeland	<b>Lector</b>	Earlene Rivers
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Marcus Reynolds & Gene Stirewalt	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Marcus Reynolds & Gene Stirewalt
<b>Acolyte</b>	Cruz Beers	<b>Acolyte</b>	Coy Weddington
<b>Security Team</b>	Robert Hunter & Chris Sloop	<b>Security Team</b>	Mike Stout & David Linker
<b>Sound System</b>	Chad Rivers	<b>Sound System</b>	Kurt Weddington
<b>Teller Team</b>	Sheila Basinger, Patsy Parnell, Aaron Linker	<b>Teller Team</b>	Sheila Basinger, Patsy Parnell, Aaron Linker
<b>Ushers</b>	Jeff & Sharon Ritchie, Michael & Kristi Miller	<b>Ushers</b>	Jeff & Sharon Ritchie, Michael & Kristi Miller

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Peggy Linker's birthday given by her husband, David.

**LADIES' BIBLE STUDY** will be Monday at 7:00pm in the FLC Parlor. The leader is Shelly Hunter.

**AMAZING GRACE SENIOR CITIZENS** meeting is Tuesday at 10:30 in FLC. There will be a soup lunch.

**NEEDED** people to set up and take down tables and chairs in the FLC each Wednesday for Lenten meal and worship services. Please see David Linker if you are able to help.

**THE FISH FRY COMMITTEE** is seeking nominations for a recipient for the fundraiser. This information needs to be submitted by February 25. If you know of someone who would benefit from this event please complete a nomination form which can be found at the back of the church.

**LENT WORSHIP MEAL/SERVICES** beginning Wednesday. Meal at 6:30pm and Worship at 7:30pm

**LENTEN SUPPORT DRIVE FOR RHM.** Items needed are Gallon Size Zip Loc Bags, Hand Warmers, Shampoo (travel size), Conditioner (travel size) and Lotion (travel size). Drop off items in designated bins in Mail Room. This drive will conclude on Easter.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE** will meet on Tuesday at 7:00pm in the council room.

**LENTEN HUNGER & POVERTY CHALLENGE.** Pick up your Barn Banks today in the Narthex. Fill your banks with coins, money, or use your envelope to support this ministry. Our Goal: \$2860.00 will support 4 family farms.

## Prayer List

### Immediate needs:

Barbara & John Miller, Wayne Moose, David Diggs

### Community Concerns:

Johnny Faggart (*Kim Stout's brother*), Beth Bates (*Gene Stirewalt*), Darren Wike (*Barbara Upright*), William Lewis (*Pastor Josh*), David Drysdale (*Pastor Josh*), Earl Thomas (*Jennifer Sloop*)

### Comfort:

### Ongoing Needs:

John & Barbara Miller, Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Susan Abernethy, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Ray Rivers, Janis Eury, Nancy Speck, Allen Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Margie Martin, Diane Bouk, Dudley Miller

### Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP – February 11, 2024**

**Total Attendance 171**

	<u>Received</u>
Current	\$ 2,905.00
Sunday School Attendance 81	\$ 79.00
Property	\$ 50.00
Facility Rental	\$ 180.00
RHM (Souper Bowl)	\$ 56.00
Paving Fund	\$ 225.00
Van Fund	\$13,295.00
Youth of Grace	\$ 170.00
Building Fund	\$ 100.00
Benevolent Fund	\$ 185.00
Barn Banks (God's Global Barnyard)	\$ 116.00
Boy Scouts	\$ 100.00
Envelopes	\$ 3.00
Frances Bost Hall Memorial (Paving)	\$ 100.00
Diane Rivers Memorial Youth/Kids	\$ 95.00
Diane Rivers Memorial Van	\$ 100.00
Diane Rivers Memorial Paving	\$ 100.00
Total	\$17,859.00

### **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Monday</b>	Ladies Bible Study	7:00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Amazing Grace Seniors	10:30am
	Property Committee	7:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Little Lights	5:30pm
	Torchbearers	6:00pm
	Handbells	6:00pm
	Lenten Meal	6:30pm
	Worship Service	7:30pm
	Chancel Choir	8:15pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Stewardship committee	6:30pm

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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